



GREENSBORO URBAN AREA

Transportation Advisory Committee

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of December 11, 2001

3:00 p.m. Greensboro, NC

Plaza Level Conference Room

Melvin Municipal Office Building

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Sandy Carmany | TAC Chair, City Council |
| Mayor Keith Holliday | City Council |
| Robbie Perkins | City Council |
| Doug Vaughan | City Council |
| Doug Galyon | Board of Transportation |
| Bob Landreth | County Commissioner |

OTHERS PRESENT

| | | | |
|---------------|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Tyler Meyer | GDOT | Elizabeth James | GTA |
| Adam Fischer | GDOT | Mark Kirstner | Guilford County Planning |
| Scott Walston | NCDOT Statewide Planning | Scott Rhine | PART |
| Frank Wyatt | Engineering & Inspections | Brad Wall | NCDOT Division 7 |
| Pat Strong | FHWA NC Division | Craig McKinney | GDOT |
| Ron Wilson | Starmount Companies | Richard Atkins | Neal-Shaffer, Inc. |
| J. D. Ayers | Town of Pleasant Garden | | |

Sandy Carmany called the meeting to order at approximately 3:00 p.m.

Action Items

Approval of Minutes of November 14, 2001

Don Vaughan moved for the approval of the November 14, 2001 minutes. Keith Holliday seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously in favor of the motion. Doug Galyon asked if he had the authority to vote. Sandy Carmany advised that he does have authority.

MTIP Amendment: NC 68 Widening

Tyler Meyer informed the Committee that this project involves widening NC 68 south of Gallimore Dairy Road to north of Triad Center Drive. The project is jointly funded, with the NCDOT paying the majority of the share. This project is included in the Long Range Transportation Plan. The TAC endorsed it on August 29, 2001. The recommended action is for the TAC to approve the addition of this amendment to the current Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program. The start date for this project is early 2002, while the open-to-traffic date would be later that year. Keith Holliday asked if there are enough lanes on the bridge to accommodate the project. Tyler Meyer stated that there are enough lanes on the bridge. Sandy Carmany requested a motion to add the amendment to the current Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program. Bob Landreth moved that the amendment be added. Don Vaughan seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

MPO Priority Needs

Tyler Meyer advised the Committee that the MPO Priority Needs are intended to represent local priorities for the next Transportation Improvement Program, which covers priorities during the period 2004 to 2010. The document will go into effect in October 1, 2003. The next step, following the adoption of the priority needs, will be a priority session with the NCDOT.

Libby James highlighted for the Committee some achievements that GTA has experienced to support the priority needs. She informed the Committee that GTA has increased from 36,000 riders per week to 43,000 riders per week, which represents an increase of 16% for all services. That growth has resulted from expanded services, including Sunday services. In January of 2001, GTA also expanded the fixed route service and made it more efficient and more effective. There has also been a 4% increase in riders of the specialized transportation service.

GTA is looking to replace vehicles in both the bus fleet and van fleet. Ten additional buses and ten additional vans need to be replaced. One of the major projects for transportation is the Multi-Modal Transportation Center. Relocation of the passenger train offices, which has been identified as a priority need, will be facilitated by Phase II of the transportation center renovation process. The GTA transit facility located at 320 East Friendly Avenue, which houses City staff, requires expansion of the storage and bus parking area. Because this expansion has been identified as a priority need, GTA is considering acquisition of the property at the corner of Market and Friendly.

Don Vaughan commented that the fence looks much better. Robbie Perkins also added that he hopes Phase I, II, III, and IV happen. Mayor Keith Holliday commented that if the internal part of that property could be used for the bus storage, and the outside on Friendly and Market could be potential storefronts for development, it could be a win-win situation. Robbie Perkins asked if the icehouse extends all the way to the railroad. Libby James advised that, yes, it does. Robbie Perkins added that the Committee could get whatever rights the railroad has on that easement and possibly use that area for

parking. Bob Landreth asked if the icehouse would be restored. Libby James advised no, it would not be restored. Bob Landreth suggested that it should be restored.

Ms. James also informed the Committee that GTA is interested in upgrading the fare collection equipment. This will allow the use of Smart Card technology. This will make the system more user-friendly, advancing another priority need. This technology will be compatible with that used by the Winston-Salem and High Point transit systems.

Ms. James advised that priorities include the expansion of the van fleet for the new connector services. Mayor Holliday asked for the breakdown on the schedule of funding. Libby James advised that it is 80% federal, 10% state, and 10% local.

Ms. James stated that GTA plans to retrofit high need bus stops with solar lighting devices to allow for better visibility for drivers and passengers, since the night service has been expanded. Don Vaughan commented that Charlotte has the bus schedule on the sign at each stop. He asked if this would be something the GTA should consider. She advised that this feature would be added in the future. Bob Landreth asked how many buses have bicycle racks. She advised that 18 buses have racks. Doug Galyon informed that effective January 1, Chapel Hill would provide free bus service. He asked how this service would be funded. Ms. James responded that the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill is going to subsidize the cash fares that would have been generated on the service. Robbie Perkins asked what the fare collection gross per year is in Greensboro. Libby James advised that it was about \$800,000. She advised that GTA will conduct a Long Range Public Transportation Study, which will be a ten to twenty year planning study, and will address revenue issues.

Sandy Carmany asked if the Town of Sedalia had made any input or reaction concerning the US 70 widening. Tyler Meyer responded that no input has been received but that the priority needs would be transmitted to Sedalia with a note about the project.

Adam Fischer advised the Committee concerning the Greensboro Advanced Signal System. He advised that fiber-optic data transceivers would be installed in all controller cabinets. He also advised that KMC Communications have agreed to install the fiber optic cable. Don Vaughan asked if some commonality could be involved since the Chief of Police announced they are putting in a new cable system. Robbie Perkins added that this is a critical feature because it is a dedicated line. He stated that with these two particular entities, it might be advantageous to keep them separate. Don Vaughan made a motion to make a report at the next meeting of the progress in this matter.

Tyler Meyer then reviewed the highway program priorities as described in the *System Priorities* handout prepared for the meeting. He then reported on the MPO priority needs public meeting. The opportunity for people to make comments on transportation needs in the area extended from October to November. A meeting was held at the Central Library on November 29 to review draft needs, make comments and ask questions. There were 17 attendees at the meeting with six people submitting comments. All comments were reviewed and responses given, as described in the *Public Comment Summary and Responses* handout prepared for the meeting. Tyler Meyer advised that the priority needs list would need to be approved to forward on to the NCDOT. Bob Landreth moved for the approval of the priority needs list. Don Vaughan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Prospectus for Transportation Planning

Tyler Meyer advised the Committee that the function of the prospectus is to provide definitions of the planning tasks listed in the Planning Work Program. While the PWP delineates the sources and amounts of funding associated with each planning task, the prospectus describes the general nature and extent of each task, and identifies the agency responsible for completing each task. There is a prospectus for each of the MPOs in the state. GUAMPO's current prospectus was prepared in 1993, and is in need of revision. The proposed revision would clarify the definitions of the various planning tasks, and would add Congestion Management and Air Quality and Conformity Planning to the range of tasks.

Sandy Carmany asked for a motion to recommend approval of the revised prospectus. Bob Landreth moved for the approval of the prospectus. Don Vaughan seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Business Items

Proposed Thoroughfare Plan Amendment

The MPO received a request to modify the Thoroughfare Plan element of the Long Range Transportation Plan. The request, which was submitted by the Starmount Company, proposed thoroughfare system changes to accommodate the Villages at Reedy Fork development. This large-scale, integrated development will cover approximately 1,800 acres and will include housing, commercial, office, light industrial, recreational, and school uses. Additionally, the thoroughfare plan changes provide for a parallel route to U.S. 29 via Summit Avenue to U.S. 150 and provide improved connections to the wider area. The request was reviewed in detail and modifications were identified. No action was proposed for this meeting. Craig McKinney informed the Committee about the other changes to the Thoroughfare Plan that were requested. These changes are reflected in the *System Priorities* handout.

Upcoming Planning Items & Early 2002 Schedule

Tyler Meyer noted the current meeting schedule: January 23 and February 20. The January meeting will be cancelled. Those items that would be discussed in January will be discussed at the February meeting. Updated notices of the meeting schedule will be sent out. Tyler Meyer requested a motion for cancellation of the January meeting. Robbie Perkins moved to cancel the January meeting. Keith Holliday seconded the motion. The Committee voted unanimously in favor of the motion. Keith Holliday and Doug Galyon suggested a schedule be established to cover 2002. Tyler Meyer stated that this would be done for review at the next meeting.

Other Items

Board Member Update

Doug Galyon advised the Committee that the state financial situation is better than expected at this point. New car sales have helped maintain revenue levels in the Highway Trust Fund. The Legislature has put \$153 million into secondary road maintenance. The section of the Urban Loop between I-85 and I-40 has now been advanced for construction in 2003 and completion by 2006. The southern section of the loop should be opened by 2003. The segment in the east from I-85/I-40 to US 70 will be opened in the spring of 2002. Bob Landreth voiced his concerns regarding the contractor's work on Highway 70 in the past. Doug Galyon advised that the work would meet State standards. Keith Holliday asked if there is a budget for acquisition of land. Doug Galyon advised that \$12 million has been spent in the

northern tier in advanced acquisitions. He also advised that it is standard practice to buy property as it becomes available.

Town Reports

None.

Regional Updates

Sandy Carmany advised that PART will be meeting with the Guilford County Commissioners on January 17, 2002. The Commissioners will be considering PART's request for authorization to levy a 5% tax on rental car revenues in Guilford County, as its source of funding.

Scott Rhine stated that drafts of significant supporting documents for the rail studies are complete. The Intercity Rail Study should be completed by Spring, 2002 and the Mobility MIS (the Commuter Rail Study) should be completed by late Summer or early Fall, 2002. He advised that work in refining the Airport Study appears to be moving forward, but that the ball was in NCDOT's court on whether to do a "Pre-TIP study". He noted progress on the collaborative efforts of Triad MPOs and PART on the Travel Demand Model Update.

Sandy Carmany advised that PART now encompasses six counties. At their request, Rockingham County officially joined PART. Doug Galyon added that they had a very good meeting with Rockingham County and that they were very positive.

Keith Holliday asked about the progress with the Guilford College Bridge. Doug Galyon stated that the delay is due to the contractor. Brad Wall advised that the work continues on the Merritt Drive Bridge. He advised that the work also continues on the Guilford College Bridge.

Bob Landreth moved for the adjournment of the meeting. Robbie Perkins seconded the motion, which carried. The TAC adjourned at 4:28 p.m.